

HOUSE RESOLUTION 115

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to recognize the outstanding contributions to health care provided by the Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses of the Methodist Healthcare hospital system to Tennesseans and others under their care.

WHEREAS, it is difficult to overestimate the importance of nursing care to the effectiveness of the overall health care system in this State and nation; the current severe shortage of nursing professionals only heightens awareness of the contributions of nurses; and

WHEREAS, Methodist Healthcare is a health care delivery system headquartered in Memphis that operates seven hospitals in or near Memphis, with 1,520 licensed beds; the hospitals include Methodist University Hospital, Methodist North, Methodist South, Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown, Methodist Fayette Hospital, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, and UT Bowld, a transplant and specialty hospital; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the system also includes a home health agency, ambulatory surgery centers and diagnostic facilities, a managed care organization, a school of nursing, and a variety of medical and surgical residency programs and other allied health education programs; and

WHEREAS, Methodist Healthcare-Memphis Hospitals is the third largest hospital in the country and the second largest private employer in Memphis; it is also ranked number one in market share (an estimated 46.3%) in Memphis, according to the 2000 *Joint Annual Reports of Hospitals*; and

WHEREAS, HCIA/Mercer has named Methodist Healthcare-Memphis Hospitals among the "Top 100 Hospitals" in the country, and in January of 2000, Methodist Healthcare was highlighted in *Modern Healthcare* magazine for being ranked 38th among the "Top 100 Integrated Networks" by SMG marketing group; and

WHEREAS, the many accolades received by Methodist Healthcare are due in no small part to the dedicated professionalism of the 3,678 Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses who form an essential component of the 8,770 full-time equivalent associates who staff the system; in 2002, the system experienced more than 83,000 inpatient discharges and nearly 550,000 outpatient visits; and

WHEREAS, last year, more than 8,900 mothers received help from Methodist in delivering their babies; the Methodist Healthcare system also provided \$366,054,000 in care to the underserved in 2002, \$114,351,000 of that in charity and uncompensated care during 2002; and

WHEREAS, mindful of the indispensable role played by its nurses, both RNs and LPNs, in the delivery of the system's health care services, the administration of the Methodist Healthcare system has designated the week of May 5-10, 2003, as Nurses' Recognition Week, to honor its nurses for their professional excellence and ongoing commitment to the best in health care; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body heartily concurs in the appropriateness of this recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with the

administration and health care associates of the Methodist Healthcare system in celebrating the week of May 5-10, 2003, as Nurses' Recognition Week, and express our admiration and appreciation to the nurses of Methodist Healthcare for their dedication to professional excellence and stalwart commitment to the delivery of compassionate and effective health care services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.